

**WATER OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE | MARCH 20, 2024 | 7 PM**

PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL ✠ SEEK THE THIRSTY ✠ TEACH THE WORD

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***“Vindication”***

**✠ AS WE GATHER ✠**

✠ In Psalm 41:7–8, David lamented, “All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, ‘A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.’” These words pointed forward to our Lord Jesus Christ, who rose again in defiance of His enemies. Do you have enemies who whisper and scheme against you? Have you been brought low—perhaps so low that you despair of ever rising again? Jesus was vindicated in His resurrection, and you shall be too. You can have certainty in your resurrection and vindication because Jesus Christ is risen.

✠ The service is printed in this service folder.

✠ Hymns will be sung from the LSB hymnals located in the baskets underneath the seats.

✠ Tithes, offerings, and Connection Cards may be placed in the offering plate during worship or in the offering box at the Sanctuary door as you exit.



✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

HYMN

*Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed*

LSB 560



1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With heal - ing  
 2 Thou know - est all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a -  
 3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing  
 4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so



gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in Thee my  
 bused, my mis - spent years; Yet now to Thee with  
 of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing, though it  
 sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
 con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
 be through pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.  
 en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

**INVOCATION**

*Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES**

*Psalm 9:1-2, 9-10*

**P** I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;

**C** I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.

**P** I will be glad and exult in You;

**C** I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

**P** The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.

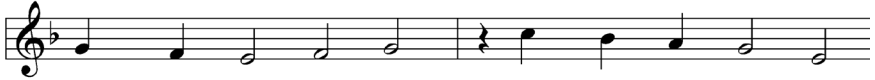
**C** And those who know Your name put their trust in You, for You, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek You.

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**P** Let us make our confession to our God, seeking His grace and forgiveness.



1 When in the hour of deep - est need We know not  
 2 Then is our com - fort this a - lone That we may  
 3 For You have prom - ised, Lord, to heed Your chil - dren's  
 4 And so we come, O God, to - day And all our



where to look for aid; When days and nights of  
 meet be - fore Your throne; To You, O faith - ful  
 cries in time of need Through Him whose name a -  
 woes be - fore You lay; For sore - ly tried, cast



anx - ious thought No help or coun - sel yet have brought,  
 God, we cry For res - cue in our mis - er - y.  
 lone is great, Our Sav - ior and our ad - vo - cate.  
 down, we stand, Per - plexed by fears on ev - 'ry hand.

- 5 O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;  
 Absolve us through Your boundless grace.  
 Be with us in our anguish still;  
 Free us at last from ev'ry ill.
  
- 6 So we with all our hearts each day  
 To You our glad thanksgiving pay,  
 Then walk obedient to Your Word,  
 And now and ever praise You, Lord.

**ABSOLUTION**

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**SALUTATION**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

P O God who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know You more completely. Assure us that all things are made to work for our good through our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we may with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 9:12-16

<sup>12</sup>Who is the man so wise that he can understand this? To whom has the mouth of the LORD spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined and laid waste like a wilderness, so that no one passes through? <sup>13</sup>And the LORD says: "Because they have forsaken My law that I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice or walked in accord with it, <sup>14</sup>but have stubbornly followed their own hearts and have gone after the Baals, as their fathers taught them. <sup>15</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Behold, I will feed this people with bitter food, and give them poisonous water to drink. <sup>16</sup>I will scatter them among the nations whom neither they nor their fathers have known, and I will send the sword after them, until I have consumed them."

R O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## SERIES PSALM

Psalm 41

P Blessed is the one who considers the poor!

C **In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;**

P The LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land;

C **You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**

P The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.

C **As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!"**

P My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die and his name perish?"

C **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**

- P All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
- C They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”**
- P Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
- C But You, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**
- P By this I know that You delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- C But You have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in Your presence forever. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.**

**EPISTLE READING**

2 Timothy 3:1-9

<sup>1</sup>But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup>For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people. <sup>6</sup>For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, <sup>7</sup>always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup>Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith. <sup>9</sup>But they will not get very far, for their folly will be plain to all, as was that of those two men.

- R O Lord, have mercy on us.
- C Thanks be to God.**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** *(Please rise)*

Matthew 26:1-5

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-sixth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples, <sup>2</sup>“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup>and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill Him. <sup>5</sup>But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN**

*Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow*

*LSB 428*

**SERMON**

*“Vindication”*

Rev. Shawn Deterding

**OFFERING**

**KYRIE**

P Lord, have mercy.

**C Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**C Our Father, who art in heaven...**

**COLLECTS**

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C And let my cry come to You.**

P O God, who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know You more completely. Assure us that all things are made to work for our good through our Savior, Jesus Christ, so that we may with hopeful hearts await the glory of His kingdom of eternal grace. With boldness and confidence, we ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN

*Now the Light Has Gone Away*

LSB 887



1 Now the light has gone a - way; Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,  
2 Je - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way All that has been wrong to - day;  
3 Let my near and dear ones be Al - ways near and dear to Thee;  
4 Now my eve - ning praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.  
5 Thou, my best and kind - est Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.



Ask - ing Thee to watch and keep And to send me qui - et sleep.  
Help me ev - 'ry day to be Good and gen - tle, more like Thee.  
O bring me and all I love To Thy hap - py home a - bove.  
All my bless - ings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!  
Let me love Thee more and more, Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

